AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for producing an unsaturated lactone-derived polyester monomer of Structural Formula (1):

wherein each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷ represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having one to ten carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom, wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷ may be combined to form one or more rings; n denotes an integer from 1 to 7; and m denotes an integer from 1 to 100, the method comprising the steps of reacting a carboxyl-containing radically polymerizable unsaturated monomer with a cyclic lactone by the catalysis of an acidic catalyst in the presence of 1 to 50 parts by weight of water to 100 parts by weight of the total of the carboxyl-containing radically polymerizable unsaturated monomer and the cyclic lactone; and carrying out dehydration under reduced pressure for removing low boiling components to form an ester bond between a by-produced water-initiated lactone oligomer and the carboxyl-containing radically polymerizable unsaturated monomer to thereby reduce a hydroxyl value to 5.0 mg of KOH per gram or less.

2

MSW//smt

Application No.: NEW Docket No.: 3273-0217PUS1

2. (Original) The method for producing an unsaturated lactone-derived polyester monomer according to claim 1, wherein the carboxyl-containing radically polymerizable unsaturated monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, and itaconic acid.

- 3. (Original) The method for producing an unsaturated lactone-derived polyester monomer according to one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the cyclic lactone is at least one selected from the group consisting of ε -caprolactone, trimethyl- ε -caprolactone, monomethyl- ε -caprolactone, γ -butyrolactone, γ -valerolactone, and δ -valerolactone.
- 4. (Currently amended) The method for producing an unsaturated lactone-derived polyester monomer according to any one of claims 1 to 3 claim 1, further comprising carrying out dehydration under reduced pressure for removing low boiling components in the presence of residual carboxyl-containing radically polymerizable unsaturated monomer to form an ester bond between the carboxyl-containing radically polymerizable unsaturated monomer and the water-initiated lactone oligomer as a by-produced to thereby reduce the hydroxyl value to 5.0 mg of KOH per gram or less.

3 MSW//smt